

The Effectiveness of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy on Social Anxiety, Academic Performance, and Homesickness among International Students at Imam Khomeini International University

Somayeh. Keshavarz¹

¹ Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Science, Imam Khomeini International University, Qazvin, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: s.keshavarz@soc.ikiu.ac.ir

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Anela Hasanagic  Full Professor, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Islamic Education, University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina anela.hasanagic@unze.ba	Reviewer 1: Sara Nejatifar  Department of Psychology and Education of People with Special Needs, Faculty of Educational Sciences and Psychology, University of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Email: s.nejatifar@edu.ui.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mohammad Salehi  Associate Professor, Department of Educational Management, Sari Branch, Islamic Azad University, Sari, Iran. Email: drsalehi@iausari.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The term “student period” is awkward and nonstandard in academic English. Replace with “university period” or “university years.”

In the sentence “Among these, international students often encounter...”, consider citing more recent or diverse sources specific to international student psychological distress to strengthen the argument.

The table is titled “Content Structure of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy” but lacks the full description for Session 8. Ensure the session content ends clearly and matches the protocol described in the text.

In “exclusion criteria from the study included of expressing dissatisfaction...”, the phrase “included of” is ungrammatical. Please revise to “included expressing dissatisfaction...”

The phrase “The Cronbach’s alpha coefficients for the subscales were reported as...” needs a consistent reporting format (e.g., all values should use decimal points not slashes: use 0.90 not 90, etc.).

You mention that Levene's test was conducted, but the results are not discussed in enough detail in the paragraph following the table. Clarify why this step is critical for ANCOVA validity.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

When defining academic performance, clarify how it was operationalized in this study. Consider aligning the operational definition with the cited source (7).

The phrase "alienation is a broad term..." could benefit from a more specific theoretical framework or citation. Which theory of alienation is being used here?

The claim "only a few studies have examined the effectiveness of ACT among international students" needs citation or evidence. Consider briefly naming one or two studies for context.

The sentence "These results are consistent with previous studies (5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 20)..." would benefit from brief elaboration on how each cited study aligns with your findings.

The phrase "thoughts as just thoughts, feelings as just feelings..." is repetitive. Consider rewriting for clarity, perhaps using: "ACT teaches clients to observe internal experiences without fusing them with self-concept."

In "By focusing on the acceptance of internal experiences...", consider adding a sentence to address potential limitations in the cultural applicability of ACT to non-Western student populations.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.